

Top Secret



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DIRECTORATE OF
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Poland: The behind-the-scenes political struggle is growing more serious and is no longer confined to a few in the party leadership.

Military leaders have become involved and some general officers appear to have been disciplined as a result. Defense Ministry charges that "ideological subversion" existed in the armed forces lend credibility to earlier rumors that some military commanders were opposed to stern repression of recent unrest. In taking this position, they may have allied themselves with party boss Gomulka, who has urged moderation.

For the first time, Edward Gierek, politburo member and party boss of the key industrial province of Katowice, has been identified [redacted] as the leader of a group "dedicated to taking over from Gomulka's old guard." Up to now, Gierek was believed to be avoiding factional intrigue. Because of this and his record as a dynamic administrator, he had frequently been considered most likely ultimately to succeed Gomulka.

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There are renewed reports that imminent shifts in the top levels of government may be announced at a session of parliament scheduled for 9 April. If the reports are accurate, Premier Cyrankiewicz would replace ailing President Ochab. The premiership reportedly would then go to Gierek. It is also possible that Defense Minister Spychalski may be ousted because of renewed political unrest among the military.

Such changes in the government would probably signal both a further weakening of Gomulka's leadership and subsequent shifts in the party leadership. [redacted]

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Honduras: Political tensions are likely to increase in coming weeks.

Leaders of the opposition Liberal Party are bitter over last Sunday's fraudulent municipal elections. They plan to ask President Lopez to nullify the elections and remove Vice President and Minister of the Presidency Ricardo Zuniga. They blame him for intimidating the electorate and the resulting violence in which 15 persons were killed. If their demands are not met, liberal leaders plan to withdraw their deputies from congress and refuse recently won municipal posts.

The Liberals claim that failure to achieve their goals through political pressures will leave them no recourse but violence. It will be difficult for them to translate their discontent into effective action, however, since any move against the government would require military support. The Liberals may be tempted, nevertheless, to attempt to disrupt the relative political calm that has prevailed for several years.

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Jordan-Israel: US officials in Jerusalem report an unusual amount of Israeli military activity, including the movement of tanks northward. There are no other indications of hostile action, but Israel has filed a complaint with the UN over recent terrorist acts, and official statements out of Tel Aviv are as belligerent as ever. Another heavy Israeli raid into Jordan or a major cross-border firefight would certainly provoke an increase in terrorist activity.

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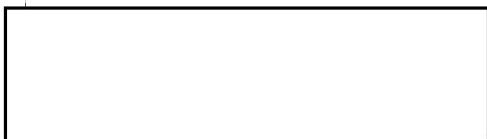
Brazil: The country is generally calm after five days of student disorders, but conditions are still unsettled. Today's memorial masses for the youth killed in last week's initial clash could trigger new incidents, but many students are reportedly fed up with demonstrations. Most army officers in Rio de Janeiro are reported to believe the government has been far too soft on students. They also believe perennial oppositionist Carlos Lacerda is involved in the agitation,

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